

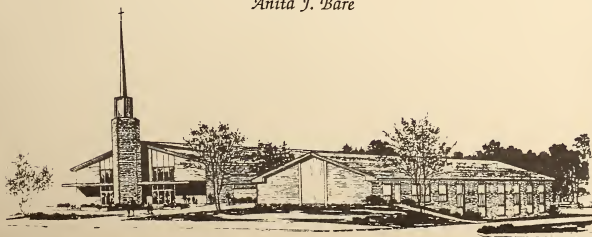


*A
History
of
First Baptist Church*

Garner, North Carolina

*A Centennial Celebration
1887-1987*

*by
Anita J. Bare*





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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No search for information can be done alone. Besides, writing about something that happened 100 years ago is tricky. At the July 4th picnic, Mr. Adkinson told me about the charter members who were in the church when he came in 1954. Without thinking, I asked him if there are any now. It is true; I did not find any 1887 members here in the present-day church. Yet, in a very real way, I did find many of those people. Their spirit, their faith, their determination, their love - all that and more is here today.

My thanks to:

Madeline Glenn whose careful research on earlier projects was so readily available to me.

Catherine Jones, Centennial Committee Chair, for her patience and her belief that it could be done.

Others in the community who provided bits and pieces about the early days of Garner. Portia Banks, Lucille Stevens, and Dollie Bryan were especially helpful. Others were: Alice Johnson, Garland Carroll, Kay Whaley, and W. C. Adkinson.

A special word of thanks goes to Ken Taylor of the Graphics Department of Garner Senior High School. Mr. Taylor and his students provided the means whereby this copy is available. The result of their work is commendable.

Also to Avenelle King who took pages of my scratchy notes and quickly turned them into a readable manuscript. There is no way this writing would have been possible without her. Along with my gratitude to Fred and Phyllis King for the use of their computer/word processor, Avenelle deserves especial praise!

The faithful record-keeping of the scores of clerks of the Raleigh Baptist Association. We see where we have been through their dedicated work.

The church clerks of First Baptist Church. Without their efforts to preserve the proceedings through the years, a work such as this would not be possible.

And, finally, I want to thank my family for enduring the time spent and the clutter. They deserve a singular recognition, especially Amy.

A.J.B.
November, 1987



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All history resolves itself very easily into the biography of a few stout and earnest persons.

Emerson, Essays, First
Series: Self Reliance

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Hebrews 11:13 {KJV}



INTRODUCTION

The 1887 minutes of the Raleigh Baptist Association meeting at Morrisville Baptist Church, provides documentation of the Garner Baptist Church at its founding. This account of the business on November 2, 1887 reads:

Petitionary letters called for ... Garner Baptist Church of Wake County, petitioned for membership ... Garner was represented by Brother J. J. Bagwell who was cordially welcomed by the moderator.

Early records of the church are lost, but it is believed charter members included the Britts, Bagwells, Holloways, Montagues, Parkers, and Weathers. The church trustees whose names appeared on the original deed were: Ross Bagwell, Weston Parker, J. J. Bagwell, A. R. Holloway, H. B. Bagwell, and Harvey Hicks.

There is some speculation that organizational meetings took place on the Bagwell farm on Jones Sausage Road. Another possibility is mentioned by Joan Richardson Kenerson, granddaughter of Mrs. Eunice Richardson. Mrs. Richardson was born in 1882 to Adolphus and Martha Parker Holloway. In a tribute to Mrs. Richardson at her death in 1970, Joan R. Kenerson gave account of her grandmother as a young child, holding her mother's hand going door to door, asking people to help form a Baptist Church. Rev. W. C. Adkinson (pastor FBC 1954-74) recalls Mrs. Richardson saying those house-to-house visits occurred when she was 5, making the year 1887.

In her writing, Mrs. Kenerson speaks of early meetings near the First Christian Church and Town Cemetery. A History of Garner, done in 1971, lists Hayes Chapel as the oldest church in Garner, originating in 1859, with the building erected in 1867. It is then probable that the account by Joan Kenerson refers to the Hayes Chapel Church and cemetery.

A news clipping from 1962 at the 75th Anniversary of First Baptist Church says the "Hayes Chapel Christian Church ... sanctuary was used by the Baptist group for a time".

Further, it is known that J. J. Bagwell lived in the second house east of Hayes Chapel. This house at 401 Old Garner Road was later owned and occupied by the P. K. Banks family from 1920 to 1975 when Mrs. Banks (Mrs. Portia) sold it and moved to Raleigh. Mrs. Portia states that her family bought the property from the Bagwells and that "1898" is carved on the porch. Even if this date represents the building of the present house, it is likely the property served some role in the church's formation.

As information was being gathered from monuments in the Hayes Chapel Cemetery, Mr. Garland Carroll, often the cemetery caretaker, came from his house across the street. He remembered a one-room schoolhouse situated on the east side of the church. This school building can join the other sites in today's speculation about the first location of Garner Baptist Church.

Even though documents are missing from the initial years of the church, some human interest stories about the Charter Families can be found. Mrs. Eunice Richardson's parents, the Holloways, were among those dedicated founders. The Holloways ran a dry goods store on Main Street. They are described by their great-granddaughter as "very strict and traditional...who accepted only the best from their children." Eunice Richardson, following the example set by her parents, was a loyal member from the age of 10. She helped with the building program and served as a faithful worker in the nursery department where the Crib Nursery was named for her.

On June 25, 1901, Eunice Holloway married John Bryan Richardson at the home of her parents. The young bridegroom, J. B. Richardson, was depot agent for Southern Railway in Garner. In 1905 he was named the first mayor of the Town of Garner. A note of interest: At the wedding, the piano was played by Mrs. J. S. Buffalo, whose husband, Dr. Buffalo, began in 1901 what was to be a long medical practice in Garner. Mrs. Buffalo played the piano at the Garner church for approximately 30 years.

As one studies the history of FBC, Garner, as well as the Town of Garner, one name stands out as a central figure from the beginning. The name of J. J. Bagwell appears as a delegate to the Association, as Church Clerk, as S. S. Superintendent, and often, as all of the above. In addition, he fulfilled his civic duties as a member of the Town Board and as a representative to the North Carolina Legislature in 1895.

Jahazy K. Bagwell, known as "Hazy" was married to Nelia Britt, (b. July, 1863; d. June 1899). After her death, his wife was Virginia (1864-1931). As previously noted, he lived in a large house east of Hayes Chapel. Mr. Bagwell operated a store on Main Street near the site of the present First Citizen's Bank. His store served as a local polling place, and a back room housed caskets for sale.

Miss Lula Bagwell, whose name is carried today by a Mission Group of FBC, was a sister to J. J. Bagwell. Miss Lula, who never married, lived in the Bagwell house on Old Garner Road. Records show her active involvement in Woman's Missionary Union and as a delegate to the Association. Those who remember Miss Lula say "she gave all she had" to the church. At the time of her death in 1956, she was residing at the Wake County Home.

J. J. Bagwell was the father of "Miss Flossie", who married Needham L. Broughton. Mr. Broughton was a Methodist, but his name appears often in the Baptist Church as Mrs. N. L. Broughton's leadership was cited. The Broughtons lived on Old Garner Road on property which now belongs to the Town and serves as the Garner Parks and Recreation office.

The names of the charter members and their families appear frequently in both town and associational proceedings. George Montague opened the first drug store in Garner in the early 1900's. Mr. J. A. Weathers was a cashier in the Bank of Garner when it opened in 1910. The Michener house, which has been moved from its location on Highway 50 to Timber Drive, was owned by Mr. Henry Britt. Descendants of these and others are visible throughout the years and down to present day members of First Baptist Church.

Before proceeding further, a word about the Raleigh Baptist Association is in order. Dr. J. W. Ousley, Professor Emeritus, Baylor University, and FBC pastor 1935-1937 writes in BAPTISTS WORKING TOGETHER:

From the very beginning of Associational life in England in the 1600's, fellowship played an indispensable role. Baptists were scattered; numerically they were weak, and little struggling congregations were naturally attracted toward each other in a mutual fellowship ... Baptists were haunted and hunted, and in unity they found strength.

Since the early 1800's the Raleigh Baptist Association has been the vehicle recording the heartbeat of the local church. In this research, the Association deserves a great round of applause for providing words when none were found. It is, therefore, appropriate in 1987 for people of FBC to gaze back to that fall 100 years ago and give thanks for the support from this unifying arm of the denomination.

1887-1899 - THE EARLY YEARS

The first pulpit of Garner Baptist Church was often filled by students from Wake Forest College with worship service held once a month. During its first year of existence the church was led by Alvin Betts. There were 23 church members and 48 pupils in Sunday School. Mr. H. B. Bagwell was S. S. Superintendent, and J. J. Bagwell served as church clerk.

Rev. J. R. Pace held the pastorate for the next three years (1888-1890) for an annual salary of \$ 75.00. Membership rose from 39 in 1888 to 52 in 1889. The total shows 24 males and 28 female members. J. J. Bagwell continued to hold position of

clerk. Sunday School membership was 67 in 1889 and listed C. M. Carter as Superintendent. The sum of \$.46 was contributed to Foreign Missions with \$ 5.00 going to State Missions. A gift of \$ 1.22 was sent to the fledgling Baptist Children's Home, begun four years earlier in 1885.

Garner contributed \$.50 toward the printing of the Minutes where delegates to the 1889 Association adopted RULES OF DECORUM including the statement: "No person of the Association shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the same, nor of whispering in time of a public speech". As the Garner Baptist Church gained strength, the Baptist presence was being felt in the state and nation. In 1887, Buies Creek Academy, now Campbell University, was established. That same year, Miss Lottie Moon wrote from her mission post in China, urging Southern Baptist women to organize for mission support. WMU began in North Carolina in 1890. That same year, a white frame church on Rand Mill Road became the home of Garner Baptist Church. An original deed shows the property was secured by the Church on October 6, 1887. A water tank for the Town of Garner stands on that site today.

In 1891, M. A. Adams from Wake Forest was pastor and J. J. Bagwell served as Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Hervey Bagwell was a delegate to the Associational meeting at Green Level October 29, 1891. Brother R. R. Day of Wake Forest preached on the 4th Sunday in 1892 and his salary remained at \$75.00. Irvin Bagwell represented the church at the next associational gathering in Smithfield. Again, no leadership changes were made at the local level in 1893. W. H. Reddish served as pastor.

The church was without pastoral leadership in 1894. The church letter, however, shows a Mission Society at Garner for the first time. The following year, Mrs. Florence Pool's name appears as a WMS delegate. H. H. Marshburn was pastor and his salary increased to \$ 85.00.

The Garner church shared Pastor C. S. Burgess with New Bethel in 1897. The neighboring congregation paid Brother Burgess \$ 90.00, while Garner held at \$ 85.00. A. V. Britt's name is shown as clerk for the next two years. Mr. J. W. Parker worked in Sunday School in 1897 with an enrollment of 54. The church was again without a pastor in 1898. Little information is available for the year following (1899), except the name of J. F. Tuttle of Clayton, as pastor.

1900-1909 - THE TWENTIETH CENTURY/A BEGINNING

The 20th Century began with C. R. Taylor of Wake Forest pastoring both Garner and Inwood, making \$ 100.00 at each church. J. J. Bagwell continued as Sunday School Superintendent with A. V. Britt as Clerk. In 1901, W. F. Woodruff filled the Garner

pulpit. This year, in the life of N. C. Baptists, a committee on Temperance organized, paving the way for the Anti-Saloon League. Biblical Recorder Editor, Josiah Bailey was the leader.

Pastor J. W. Nobles of Selma was a busy man in 1902. The following is a list of his charges and salaries with the exception of Thanksgiving:

Carters Chapel	1st Sun	\$ 35.00
Parish Mem.	1st Sun	35.00
Lees Chapel	3rd Sun	100.00
Nobles Chapel	3rd Sun	16.25
Garner	4th Sun	100.00
Thanksgiving	4th Sun	NA

He kept a similar pace in 1903, dropping Carters Chapel and Thanksgiving. A. V. Britt, J. J. Bagwell, and J. W. Parker retained positions of leadership with R. S. Stephenson as pastor in 1904. The minister's salary was \$ 100.00 through 1905 when A. D. Hunter of Cary became pastor. Along with the previously named church officers, M. C. Penny filled the post of Sunday School Secretary. The WMU had 17 members with Mrs. W. H. Britt as leader.

The year 1906 showed Garner without a pastor and Miss Addie Britt serving as WMS President. The WMU Training School for women missionaries began in Louisville, Kentucky in 1907, and Pastor Erskin Pope preached at Garner on the 1st Sunday in 1907.

The pastor's salary was raised to \$ 125.00 as J. D. Bowen ministered on the 3rd Sunday during 1908. Mr. Britt, Mr. Penny and Mr. Bagwell were joined by Mrs. M. C. Penny and Miss Lula Bagwell as WMU leaders in 1909. J. M. Hilliard of Cary closed out the decade as minister.

1910 - 1919 - GROWTH AND CHANGE

J. M. Hilliard, of Knightdale, was pastor 1910-1911. The salary stayed at \$ 125.00 and membership showed 20 males and 29 females in 1910. The next year the number dropped to 56, and statistics showed 2 members excluded. The church property was valued at \$ 2,000.00.

The year 1912 brought the telephone to the Town of Garner for the first time. The switchboard was located in the home of Mrs. Vera Jones, and, shortly thereafter 10 subscribers took advantage of the progress. The Garner Baptist Church pastor had the distinguished sounding name, L. E. M. Freeman. Rev. Freeman of Raleigh held service on the 3rd Sunday and earned \$ 125.00. Fifty-one pupils were members of Sunday School and \$ 17.50 was spent on materials. Mission gifts that year were:

\$ 7.50	Home Missions
7.50	State Missions
5.00	The Poor
7.75	Foreign
8.18	The Orphanage

Pastor W. D Harrington of Wake Forest was the third man to fill the Garner post in this decade. The name of J. J. Bagwell showed repeatedly as Sunday School Superintendent or Clerk. Mrs. H. N. Parker had Miss Lula Bagwell and Miss Ethel Britt join her as representatives to the annual WMU meeting in Cary on October 29, 1913. The following year Mrs. C. E. Kuester attended. C. A. Jenkins began 2 years as pastor and his yearly salary rose to \$ 200.00. He ministered to 27 males and 35 female members and led the congregation to contribute \$ 437.16 in gifts.

The year 1914 found the annual association meeting at Inwood Church, October 28-29. Mr. Bagwell registered as a delegate and was appointed to the committee on Foreign Missions. The churches were challenged by the Report on Home Missions:

The Panama Canal is opened and the Commerce of the world is heading into the Gulf of Mexico and, true to history, the tide of immigration is soon to follow. After the destruction and death of war has passed, and peace and order once again comes to the nations of Europe, then shall we see billows of Slav and Teuton rolling in upon our peaceful and prosperous shores. The Home Mission Board asks for an average of only about one dollar from each member of this Association. Since we are little affected by the war on our staple crop - tobacco - and since the cotton growers south of us are very heavy losers, ... we would recommend that this body make all possible sacrifice for the needs of Home Missions.

Accordingly, Garner's gifts to Home Missions rose to \$ 8.00 in 1915, almost four times the total in the previous year.

Pastor C. A. Jenkins of Clayton continued his duties. Mr. R. F. Young joined the faithful Mr. Bagwell as Garner's messenger to the 110th associational session at Good Hope Church, Carpenter, N. C., October 27-28, 1915. Garner's part of a pledge to help build Wake Forest a church was \$ 10.00. As a "sign of the times", the Report of Foreign Missions reads:

The world-conditions presented to our Foreign Board today are unprecedented and fraught with fearful responsibilities. The whole civilized world, with the exception of the U.S., is engaged in a bloody and cruel war. All restraints and barriers are broken down and the world is in danger of sinking into barbarism and anarchy. Civilization has been put back one thousand years. Our country stands almost alone today, as the champion of freedom and the rights of man.

Garner's pastor was listed as Rev. J. Teague from Louisburg for the years 1916-1917. Church leadership was unchanged, but the WMU was directed by Mrs. W. G. Penny. Mrs. Penny, whose maiden name, Essie Lake, identifies a Sunday School Class at FBC, was a faithful Baptist while her husband attended the Methodist Church. Mr. Penny was, for many years, the Postmaster in Garner.

The associational minutes for 1918 noted: "Owing to the prevalence of the Spanish influenza during the month of October 1918, the One Hundred and Thirteenth Session of the Association ... was called off for the year." For the next two years, 1918-1919, S. A. Edgerton of Buies Creek was the minister. His salary climbed to \$ 200.00 per year. Harry Mitchell worked with Mr. Bagwell keeping records in Sunday School. The women's organization was led by Mrs. Vera Jones with the assistance of Mrs. N. L. Broughton who enrolled 14 in YWA's that year. In 1919, Garner began participating with other Southern Baptist Churches in the \$ 75 Million campaign, a five year plan to raise money to be divided equally between the State and Southern Baptist Convention. It was an immense undertaking and, though the result was only \$ 58,500.00, the ability of Baptists to work together had been shown.

The WMU was slated to meet at Garner the following year, September, 1919. Miss Lula Bagwell was on the planning committee.

1920 - 1929 - A STRONG FOUNDATION

For the next 7 years, with the exception of 1923, Miss Lula Bagwell led the WMU at Garner. Miss Minda Smith was President in 1922-1923. Mrs. J. N. Bryan and Mrs. H. H. Britt were additional leaders.

The year 1920 began a period when the Garner Baptist Church was led by strong pastors. Rev. B. G. Early revealed his activity both at the church level and in Associational work. During the three years of his ministry in Garner, Mr. Early was paid \$ 200.00 annually. He was on the Committee on Home Missions in 1920 and appointed to the Committee for Foreign Missions for

the upcoming session.

In 1921, Brother Early gave a vigorous Report on Temperance. Afterward, he was named to the same committee for 1922. He also served on the Committee to recommend delegates to N. C. Baptist State Convention and the SBC. In 1922, Pastor Early led in prayer at the Associational meeting and helped choose Executive Board members.

During this period, Mrs. J. J. Bagwell joined her husband and Miss Lula Bagwell as a delegate to the Raleigh Association. Miss Jessie Mitchell, W. K. Parrish, and C. E. Kuester were mentioned. The name of Mrs. Hattie Friend is shown as a WMU delegate. Garner's contribution to the \$ 75 Million campaign was \$ 388.00 in 1921. At this point, the church property was valued at \$ 4,000.00.

The Rev. B. G. Early moved from the pastorate to become Associational Missionary in 1923. Garner was without a minister at the time the associational annual was published. This interruption in leadership was evident in that Garner was represented by letter only. This was a time of expansion in the lives of people, however, and churches were urged to rise to this challenge for State Missions:

The coming of the automobile has brought at least this great blessing of good roads... Soon the county seats of N. C. will be linked together with a wonderful system of hardsurfaced roads. This means untold wealth and undreamed of progress for the State in every phase of its life.

Garner remained involved in the \$ 75 Million Campaign and showed \$ 681.55 paid during the four previous years. The membership of Sunday School was 83, outranking the church roll of 59. Charlie Bridgers served as Secretary of Sunday School.

In 1924-26, S. T. Morris from Buies Creek served as Pastor bringing messages on the 3rd Sunday. The salary stayed at \$ 200.00. The membership in church increased to 74 and gifts to Foreign Missions moved up to \$ 14.60. The Home Missions offering was \$ 12.50.

In 1925, the ever-present J. J. Bagwell represented Garner at the Association. His sister, Miss Lula and W. A. Watkins joined him at the meeting in Zebulon, October 20-29, 1925.

Mrs. Portia Banks came to Garner as a teacher in 1925. Mrs. Portia's father was a Baptist minister, and the church she joined was Garner Baptist on Rand Mill Road. She remembers attending both the Baptist and Methodist churches when preaching was held on alternating Sundays. It was also the custom to have

one choir to sing at both churches. Mrs. Portia is one of several who married a Methodist and left the Baptists behind.

In 1925, Pastor S. T. Morris continued to serve the Garner church along with Pleasant Grove and McCullers. There were ten baptisms that year and J. J. Bagwell was on the Sunday School Committee for the Raleigh Baptist Association. Through the Lord's leadership, Brother Morris saw church membership climb to 93 in 1926. Mr. Morris' salary also grew to \$ 250.00. He went to Pleasant Grove on the 2nd Sunday and was paid \$ 228.25. Mrs. J. N. Bryan was mentioned again as a WMU worker.

The year 1927 found Garner once again without a pastor. At this point, familiar names in leadership roles were C. E. Kuester and Harry Mitchell.

R. Paul Caudill, a student at Wake Forest, came to Garner as pastor in 1928. Caudill who also preached at New Bethel and Mount Moriah, held the post for three years. This man, who would later become President of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, endeared himself to people in the Garner area. Mrs. Dolly Bryan, a Methodist, says her husband Noel, a Baptist, "thought more of him (Caudill) than he did of me! He has a wonderful flow of words," Mrs. Bryan says, and "wins the congregation easily." Long-time Garner residents fondly remember that Paul Caudill married while he was in this area and was a teacher at Garner High School.

Under Caudill's leadership, Garner Baptist Church grew to 113 members. Sunday School had an average attendance of 75 out of 147 members. Kuester, Watkins, and Mitchell were familiar names in the congregation. In 1928, Garner was credited with 54 members in BYPU. Dr. Caudill earned the sum of \$ 300.00 annually. The WMU recorded 22 members but names of leaders are not available. In 1929, Caudill's post office was Millbrook. The Garner membership was 113 with 147 in Sunday School. The statistics show optimism as the decade closed.

1930 - 1939 - LABORERS TOGETHER/THE GREAT DEPRESSION

As the Garner Baptist Church moved into the 30's, Paul Caudill was in his last year as pastor. Mr. J. Peele Johnson provided leadership as Sunday School Superintendent where 116 members were documented. The newly organized BYPU had one adult union and one junior union, having a total of 30 members.

It is interesting to note that Garner's pulpit became half-time in 1931 and the pastor's salary dropped to \$ 264.00. W. O. Andrews of Auburn began a four year tenure. Preaching time was first and third Sundays and the church grew stronger with 146 members by 1934. Women moved into positions outside WMU as Mrs. A. N. Tatum became Treasurer and Mrs. Flossie Broughton,

Clerk, in 1934. Peele Johnson was replaced by Elmo Williams in Sunday School and W. W. Penny passed the job of clerk to W. L. Muns in 1933. Church property was valued at \$ 6,500.00. BYPU had 27 pupils and 8 of the WMU members were GA's.

As the country struggled with effects of the Great Depression, J. W. Ousley came from Wake Forest to minister to the Garner congregation (1935-1937). Membership was high at 143, but the preacher's pay dropped to \$ 250.00, reflecting the economic crunch. An early member says the weekly contributions were used to pay the preacher, and any left over was put in a lard can.

Dr. Ousley received a B.S. degree from Wake Forest College. While he was a student, he pastored the Baptist Church in Garner. During this period, he preached at Pleasant Grove and Cumberland Union.

For the years 1938-1939, no pastor is shown for Garner. Statistics reflected an active church with 173 members. Six additions were tallied in 1939, making a total of 179. The WMU President was Mrs. Hampton Jackson (Mrs. Carrie) and J. S. Pittard led the Sunday School. Miss Catherine Williams was Treasurer in 1938 and again in 1939 when her name became Mrs. Purvis Jones. W. W. Perry was church clerk.

1940 - 1944 - FIRST FULL TIME PASTOR/RYBURN STANCIL

It has been noted that in the absence of early records of the church, this research has relied heavily on Associational minutes. From 1940 on, the narrative may take a different direction as a result of the availability of local church minutes. More first-hand accounts may enable human interest stories to take precedence over numerical facts.

Rev. Ryburn Stancil sheds some light on the year 1939 which was noted as vacant in Garner:

I began my ministry at the Garner Baptist Church on November 19, 1939, as Interim Pastor while doing graduate work at Wake Forest College. On March 17, 1940, I accepted the call to become pastor of the church on a quarter-time basis, with preaching on the 3rd Sunday each month. The salary was \$ 300.00 per year.

Subsequently, Mr. Stancil became the church's first full-time pastor on October 5, 1941, with salary being \$ 1,000.00 annually. He remained in that role through December, 1945. Mr. Stancil, who presently resides in Brookhaven, Mississippi, provides a look into those years in the life of Garner Baptist Church.

During the first year as full-time, the church purchased a parsonage. The price was \$300.00 down payment and \$15.00 per month until paid for ... The church paid the \$300.00 and my wife and I assumed the \$15.00 per month out of our salary.

The parsonage was bought from Mr. Jim Bryan. The house, at 112 Rand Mill Road, sits between the corner store and the water tank. It is now occupied by Mr. Aaron B. Stephenson.

Rev. Stancil's salary went to \$1,200.00 and then to \$1,500.00. Rev Stancil's account of accomplishments include the digging of a basement and addition of an area for Sunday School. Longtime members will recall that the men of the church pitched in to do this work.

Mr. Stancil relates, "I preached 371 sermons, baptized 73 people, married 18 couples, and preached in 4 revivals."

When his ministry came to a close on December 23, 1945, his prediction was that "in a matter of a few years, Garner would become a residential area for the city of Raleigh." He gives a touching tribute to Mrs. Stancil who was willing "to live the humble life necessary on our limited salary, and {gave} of her whole self to make this my first pastorate a success."

During Brother Stancil's time in Garner, many served as church officers: Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Pittard. Norwood Tatum, W. W. Perry and Mrs. Purvis Jones in 1940. In 1941 the names of H. S. Lee and L. T. Robbins were added. Fred Collins was Sunday School Superintendent. Other General Officers that year were Mrs. Ryburn Stancil, BTU; Mrs. Hampton Jackson, Treasurer; and Charlie Herbert, Clerk. Director of WMU in 1941 was Mrs. W. A. Weston. Mr. Charlie Herbert also held position of Associational BTU Director.

By 1944, church membership was 209, Sunday School had a total membership of 185 and Training Union 64.

A current member of First Baptist Church recalls that Ryburn Stancil wanted the church to go full-time. The congregation believed they could not financially support this move. Mr. Stancil felt so strongly that it was God's will to have services on a full-time basis, he accepted the call for such with his salary showing only a few dollars increase. "We could not turn down the offer," this member says.

1945 - 1946 - THE PREACHER TAKES A WIFE/LAUREN SHARPE

The 1945 Annual of the Raleigh Baptist Association showed Garner without a pastor. During that year, however, Rev. Lauren

Sharpe came to Garner and held the position of pastor through 1946. In addition to hearing the call to serve the Lord in Garner, Lauren Sharpe also made another discovery. As was the custom, Mrs. Carrie Jackson was asked to "feed the preacher". On that Sunday, Mr. Sharpe made the acquaintance of Mrs. Jackson's daughter, Betsy. The friendship grew and the two were married in the Garner Baptist Church on November 6, 1946.

Church members totaled 246 under the guidance of Lauren Sharpe and Sunday School members numbered 271 with average attendance of 127. The total spent on local work was \$5,897.00 and the sum contributed to missions was \$1,198.00.

Mrs. Charlie Herbert remained active as Sunday School Director during 1945-1946. Mr. Pittard, Mr. Watkins and Purvis Jones are listed as Treasurer or Clerk, and J. Harris Snipes was head of Training Union. The WMU President was Mrs. M. J. Stroud.

After the Sharpes moved to serve Kenansville Baptist Church, they often returned to the Garner Church as they visited Mrs. Jackson. In 1981, after several months of illness, Betsy Sharpe died of cancer. Rev. Sharpe married Barbara B. Yelverton in 1983. He remained in the pastorate at Kenanasville until his death in 1986. Their daughter, Carol, is presently a member of First Baptist, Garner.

1947-1954 - PLANTING AND WATERING/SAMUEL A. HIGH

In 1947, Sam High began a 6 1/2 year ministry at Garner Baptist Church. At present, there are no available church minutes before October, 1949. It has been difficult to find data surrounding the coming of Rev. High and his service during 1947-1949. It is, therefore, necessary to rely again on statistical tables from Raleigh Baptist Association. By 1948, church membership had risen to 317. The church property was valued at \$2,500.00. Charlie Herbert was Superintendent of Sunday School. Harris Snipes led the Brotherhood and served the deacons as chairman. Purvis Jones was treasurer and the church clerk was J. S. Pittard. During that year, there were forty-one baptisms, and Rev. High's annual salary totaled \$2,535.00.

In the following year (1949), Mrs. J. M. Jarrell and Mrs. R. T. Teague worked as pianist and choir director. The WMU had Mrs. E. R. Perry as leader. The familiar names of Jones, Pittard, Watkins, and Snipes were found again as officers of the church. The Sunday School enrolled 318 members. Thirty new members were baptized by Pastor High.

In the first paragraph of the minutes of Garner Baptist Church on October 2, 1949, the following is found:

The Board of Deacons and Deaconesses met

in regular meeting ... Sisters Long and Herbert were welcomed as the two first Deaconesses to ever serve on the board of Garner Baptist Church.

The two women, Mrs. Charlie Herbert and Mrs. J. L. Long served with their respective husbands on the board. No mention is made of women deacons after this term.

Church records show that on October 2, 1949, a motion was made to purchase a piano from Mrs. Sam Penny. Mr. W. A. Watkins agreed to donate one-half the cost (\$50) with the understanding that the church would pay the other \$50. That fall, a budget of \$10,000 was adopted. It was explained that weekly contributions of \$192.34 would be necessary.

As the Garner Baptist church grew and prospered in the Lord's work, it became expedient to consider additional buildings. On January 8, 1950, the pastor talked about the need for more space. In that meeting, the church voted to observe the 1st Sunday as Building Fund Sunday. In April of 1950, the Rev. C. W. Farrer of First Baptist Church, Clover, S. C., led the spring revival in Garner. As a result, there were sixteen additions by baptism and six by letter. Church offices were still filled by dedicated members. Mr. A. J. Dickson was treasurer, and Sunday School was directed by Hadley Stancil. Mrs. Walter Rand was choir director in 1950.

A unique practice of appointing Junior Deacons was recorded in 1951. Those named were John Kornegay, Harold Barkley, Blair Kornegay, and William Prince.

As records are studied, it is heart-warming to see a constant pattern of growth taking place in Garner Baptist Church. Membership increased as thirty-eight persons followed the Lord in baptism in 1951. An additional thirty-three came by letter. The amount of \$2,2202.95 was the missions offering for the year.

The need for more space was foremost as God's work expanded in Garner. On February 4, 1951, E. R. Perry, chairman of the Planning and Survey Committee reported on "floor plans for a new Educational Building which would cost approximately \$60,000". Business that day included the appointment of E. R. Perry, Peele Johnson, C. P. Jones, and Walter Rand (alt) to secure bids on the old church and property.

About two months later, April 1, 1951, E. R. Perry again gave an account from the Committee on Planning. Three or more acres of the Lindsey property on St. Mary's Street was available for \$3,000. The congregation agreed to delay voting for a week, "giving time for thought and prayer on the matter." On the ensuing Sunday, April 8, 1951, Tom Baucom presided in the absence

of the pastor. Those present voted in favor of buying said property for the above sum of \$3,000. Later that month on April 28, the church voted to rent a house belonging to W. A. Watkins for use as Sunday School rooms. The rent was \$40 per month.

The success of the Committee on Planning was noted on May 6, 1951. The amount of \$1,000 was paid in cash and the remaining \$2,000 was borrowed from First Citizens Bank. Mrs. H. O. Bryan and Mr. D. D. Green assisted Mr. Perry in these transactions, and the deed was secured with the church clerk.

Pastor High continued to lead the Baptist Church in Garner during 1952. On July 6, 1952, Brother C. L. Capps was ordained for the gospel Ministry, the first such candidate from FBC. On July 5, a seven member committee including Dr. J. Clyde Turner, and Dr. L. E. M. Freeman examined Mr. Capps and gave approval for the ordination on July 6. The sermon was by Pastor High, under whom C. L. Capps had accepted Christ and the call to preach. Rev. Earl Rogers, Moderator of the Association, presided and a Bible from the church was given by Rev. Douglas Aldrich. A motion was made and seconded by J. R. McDaniel and J. S. Pittard that Mr. Capps be ordained. The motion carried and the laying on of hands took place. Mr. Capps, a student at New Orleans Baptist Seminary, preached the evening sermon.

The practice of examining a deacon for ordination is shown on Sunday, October 5, 1952. The candidate, Harold Barkley, met with 12 laymen. After a positive session, the vote was in favor of ordaining Mr. Barkley. At the evening service, "all ordained ministers and deacons present participated in ceremony of laying on of hands".

In 1951, the sum of \$541.59 was placed in an interest-bearing account for the building fund. The amount of \$50 was sent to Rev. Capps at New Orleans, and "the matter of irreverence on part of some of our intermediates was discussed."

During Mr. High's final year, strong members stayed in leadership roles. Charlie Herbert presented the church on the Executive Council and in the Training Union, both on the Associational level. Mr. S. F. Humphreys, whose family joined the church in 1953, was Brotherhood leader and held the position of church clerk for several years.

Church membership was on the rise in 1953 with 380 members. On February 1, clerk J. S. Pittard recorded, "Subscriptions were made by a group of the members...to purchase an organ. {The} amount subscribed was \$781. There being insufficient funds to purchase the organ, on February 8, the church voted to defer ... til some later date."

In the fall of 1953, the following permanent Building Committee was named:

C. P. Jones, Chairman; A. J. Dickson, T. C. Baucom,
Sam Powell, E. R. Perry, and D. D. Green

The conference on October 13, 1953, is the final entry showing Rev. High as moderator. J. H. Snipes assumed job of Church Clerk. In November, Mr. and Mrs. High were named as delegates to the N. C. Baptist State Convention. It is unclear when his resignation occurred. Of interest is a letter written to Mr. High dated June 7, 1953, and quoted in part:

We, the Board of Deacons of Garner Baptist Church, wish our pastor, Brother Sam High and all members of our church to know that we are behind him in every way ... As an evidence of our support, we are electing a committee to begin work on a new church.

Names of the Permanent Building Committee and the following Deacons were attached: Hadley Stancil, Chairman, J. R. McDaniel, Charlie Herbert, J. S. Pittard, C. P. Jones, Harold Barkley, Fred Day, Harris Snipes, Arch Wood, and J. L. Long.

The January 22, 1954, News and Observer carried a picture of Rev. High with this short article:

The Rev. Sam A. High, for six and a half years pastor of the Garner Baptist Church, has accepted a call to the Loch Raven Boulevard Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. During his tenure in Garner, about 400 persons have been added to the church roles, Sunday School enrollment has doubled and the Young People's Dept. has tripled ... the church budget has risen from about \$5,000 to \$20,000 annually. The Garner church has bought a tract of land on which a new church will be erected.

1954 - 1974 - A NEW GENERATION/W. C. ADKINSON

Delicate flowers and budding trees create a picture of spring in eastern North Carolina. The springtime of 1954 was a momentous one for the Garner Baptist Church. Plans were on the way for a new church and a new pastor.

On March 21, a proposal was made to sell the old church to the Town of Garner for \$9,000. On May 9, 1954, the church voted 84 to 0 to call Mr. W. C. Adkinson to come and lead the Garner Baptist Church as Pastor. On the heels of that important decision, the church voted for Sam Powell to seek an architect

for the purpose of drawing plans for a new church, not to exceed \$2,000.

On May 23, 1954, Mr. Adkinson's acceptance to "lead us here in the Lord's work" was presented by Mr. J. R. McDaniel. The church in conference voted to set the new pastor's travel allowance at \$1,000, pay moving expenses, and buy a new electric stove for the parsonage.

The following week, a recommendation was made to sell the parsonage. Mrs. F. E. Day made the motion which was tabled until "we had a more representative group." The trustees were notified of the need "to make it liveable for Mr. Adkinson or (rent) a house until a new parsonage can be built ..." The question of selling the parsonage was agreed upon. However, the Adkinsons did move in and resided there until the new house was completed.

On Sunday, July 9, 1954, the minutes show one sentence: "Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Adkinson were received into our fellowship by letter from the 16th Street Baptist Church of Greensboro, N. C. A reception was scheduled for "Thursday night, July 15th, 7:30 p.m. at Mrs. Brown's house."

When W. C. Adkinson came to Garner, it was clear from the beginning that he was a "people" pastor. The church grew steadily, largely as a result of this man's efforts. He visited everybody. His eternal sense of humor, coupled with his uncanny memory of names and faces, soon touched all of Garner.

Almost everybody who knows W. C. Adkinson has a story to tell. Madeline Glenn who served as a part-time secretary during the early days of the Adkinson pastorate tells this account of a snake story. It happened that Mrs. Glenn called for help from the preacher when she discovered a snake in her office in the basement of the chapel building. Mr. Adkinson scared the snake away and stuffed a hole. When the snake reappeared a couple more times with similar responses from Mr. Adkinson, Mrs. Glenn let the pastor know that either the snake would go or she would. Mr. Adkinson and the boy scouts killed the snake, and Mrs. Glenn got a new office away from the basement.

In a more serious vein, Mr. Adkinson's preaching and teaching gave evidence of a rich knowledge of the Word. He reveled in a lively discussion of the Bible.

W. C. Adkinson's smile, his outstretched hands, his laughter, his ability to both work and play - all these revealed his great love for the Lord and His people. He truly belonged at First Baptist.

If the Garner Baptist Church felt blessed to have W. C. Adkinson come as pastor, they soon found themselves doubly

blessed when they became acquainted with his wife. Mrs. Ann Adkinson was a powerhouse, giving herself completely to the work of the Lord and His Church. Many present-day members are not fortunate enough to have known Mrs. Adkinson as she labored from 1954 down through the 20 years she ministered along side her husband. She worked tirelessly in WMU, serving the local church as well as being the driving force behind an Associational GA Camp held at Umstead Park for many summers. She was a faithful Sunday School teacher, interpreting scripture as the Lord led her. She was unselfish in her personal ministry to anyone in need. Ann Adkinson was truly "one of a kind", and much credit is due her for the growth and prosperity of the Garner Baptist Church. As has been characteristic of her life, however, she did not seek earthly praise and did not "lay up for [herself] treasures upon earth {but} ... treasures in heaven ... " Matthew 6:19-20 {KJV}. Clearly, no account of Christian work in Garner would be complete without a tribute to her. Her dedication to the work of God's Kingdom lives on in those whose lives she touched.

Appropriately, on July 14, 1954, five days after the Adkinsons joined the church, Mrs. Adkinson was reported as an Intermediate Sunday School teacher.

On September 12, 1954, a vote was taken to license Charles Hodges to preach the Gospel. At that time, Hodges was a student at Campbell College.

Later in the fall, Sam Powell surveyed the property "to make clear...boundary lines obliterated by {Hurricane} Hazel" and the parsonage was sold for \$5,000. Construction of a new home for the preacher was underway. The church paid \$50 per month as rent for the Adkinsons to remain in the old parsonage until such time as they could move to the new home at 511 St. Mary's Street.

The year 1954 was both eventful and challenging. A new pastor was at the helm, and new buildings were becoming a reality. In the spring, letters of 45 members were granted as a new church was established at Highland. The year ended with great promise for the Lord's work in Garner.

Faithful dedication to His will on the part of both pastor and people marked the first decade of service by Pastor Adkinson. There was rapid growth in membership and expansion of facilities during that span. On June 27, 1955, the Raleigh News and Observer featured an article about the ground breaking for a new \$60,000 building on a 3 1/2 acre tract located between St. Mary's Street and Benson Highway. Pictured were C. Purvis Jones, Chairman of the Building Committee; A. J. Dickson, Chairman of the Finance Committee; and Rev. W. C. Adkinson. Two educational buildings and sanctuary were slated in the future.

Later that year, on December 18, 1955, the church voted to change the financial year to run from October to October, to match the denominational year. Other business was to sell the old church to the Presbyterians for \$8,000. A committee was directed to negotiate for a higher sale price, and the results were presented at a special conference on January 1, 1956. Lacy Buffaloe stated: "All efforts to get a higher offer than \$8,000 for our present church building had failed." The sale to the Presbyterians took place.

Church leaders included many whose names have been cited earlier: Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. McDaniel, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Baucom, Mr. and Mrs. Sears Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Humphreys, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jones. Others in prominent roles were: O. F. Hinton, K.W. Hall, H. W. Barrow.

Also, L. E. Forrest, Billy Mayo, Rex Hayes, Elliot Quick, William Byrd.

In addition, W. W. Langley, J. B. Rackley, Robert Starling, Harold Overby, Rufus Howell, Victor Barfield, V. B. Hairr, Betty Page Herbert, H. B. Wheeler, W. H. Stephenson, and Artie Alexander worked in leadership roles.

In addition, these people represented Garner at the Association: W. A. Weston, Mrs. Everette Parker, Richard Byrd, Mrs. H. W. Hall, Mrs. Leon Roberts, and Mrs. S. J. Humphreys.

Mrs. Walter Rand, Jr., Rose Marie Bozart, Jennette Kelly, Mrs. W. A. Weston, and Mrs. Lee Hopper made contributions to the music ministry.

The church was blessed with able women who led in WMU in 1954 - 1964. These were: Mrs. Sears Glenn, Mrs. Perry B. Jenkins, Mrs. Ben Allred, Mrs. Furman Dowd, Mrs. W. C. Adkinson, and Mrs. E. E. Lambert.

Mr. and Mrs. Adkinson worked diligently in the church and at the associational level. Mrs. Adkinson gave an outstanding report for WMU at the 1956 meeting of Raleigh Baptist Association. The annual showed this quote: "In her unusual style, Mrs. W. C. Adkinson, through the use of appropriate posters, impressively presented WMU goals for the new year."

Rev. Adkinson, in 1955, served on the ordination committee to examine Roy J. Smith, new General Secretary of the State Convention. Other documentation shows Gattis Perry was examined on November 29, 1955, and ordained on December 18, 1955 by Flat Rock Baptist Church.

A RALEIGH TIMES report on January 23, 1956, said the church would occupy the first of the new buildings, a chapel and 14

classrooms by July 1. A furnishings committee was appointed: Tom Baucom, Chairman, O. F. Hinton, Charlie Herbert, Mrs. Walter Rand, and Mrs. Sears Glenn. This group advised the church to sell the church pews and furniture for \$2,000. The motion was made to "buy solid end pews and choir chairs with cushions for the choir."

On June 13, 1956, the last conference was held in the old church building on Rand Mill Road. It was recorded: "There were several of our people who spoke briefly as to what the old church meant to them through the years".

The new church was ready for worship on Sunday, June 17, 1956, "with a minimum of confusion."

At the next business meeting, the congregation learned that the buyer of the church pews had taken the offering plates by mistake and would return them. That kind offer was declined, and T. C. Baucom was instructed to buy new ones to match the new furniture.

There were other items of business in 1956, in addition to building matters. In January "all loose offering the 3rd Sunday...{was} given to Charles Hodges to help on his college expenses..." In March, a "resolution opposing the building of a filling station near the new church was adopted." That year, the pastor's salary was \$4,160; the total value of church property was \$114,000, with a debt of \$62,000.

Early in 1957, the board of Deacons brought a proposal that "the building and original finance committee be dissolved and they be properly recognized for the fine job which had been done by them." - By March 3, the sale of bonds was underway for the "much needed building for our educational program."

In June of 1957, Mr. T. C. Baucom brought to the church the idea "to build a two story building of brick and cinder block..." A motion carried to rent, temporarily, rooms from the Rideouts across the street.

A transaction in the minutes of 1957, shows Mike Ledbetter leading music for the fall revival. Ledbetter, a student at Southeastern Seminary, was then called to the position for \$25 per week. In addition, the church property was enhanced by the offer of "several truck loads of gravel." Bryan Rock and Sand Co. made the donation.

The building of the educational plant was directed by Charlie Jones, Chairman; K. W. Hall; T. C. Baucom; Sam Powell; and Ralph Creech. The church voted in favor of retaining Mike Ledbetter as choir director and assistant to the pastor during the summer.

In April of 1958, a significant report was given by Mrs. Adkinson. She told of "a new WMU circle being organized in the area of the Old Stage Road." The initial meeting, held in the home of Mrs. Catherine Forrest, was the "nucleus of the new mission" that would become Fellowship Baptist Church.

Allen and Cochrans contractors, gave the lowest bid and work was begun on the educational building.

In honor of a faithful member, Elliott Quick, a memorial fund was instituted for the purpose of "relieving distituted people of the church..."

On October 15, 1958, a report was given by Deacon Chairman Bill Mayo. At that time, the name of the church was changed from Garner Baptist Church to First Baptist Church. It was at this point that Pastor Adkinson suggested naming the crib baby nursery for Mrs. Eunice Richardson whose loyal contributions continued even while she lived out of state.

On November 12, 1958, the church, in conference, agreed with the Deacon's proposal for "Charles Hodges to be employed to assist the pastor and lead the...singing and work with the young people..." Hodges was paid \$15 per week. One year later his salary went up to \$20.

The move into the new educational building took place and the building committee was "commended for the fine job they had done and discharged." There was space to fill and a goal of 900 Sunday School members was set for the end of the church year, September 31, 1960. That year, Sunday morning worship services were held both at 8:30 and 11:00. This practice continued for several years.

The net value of the church property was \$96,169.98. A Loyalty Day was set for the last Sunday in March, 1961, with the goal being to pay off the indebtedness. This challenge led to a report by Mr. Sears Glenn on November 11, 1962, that "all mortgages had been paid except the main building."

The gains in membership and building additions mandated a larger church staff, and Miss Isabel Knott was "extended the call as Music and Educational Director."

The 75th anniversary saw First Baptist Church rejoicing. Speaker at both 8:30 and 11:00 was the late Dr. Douglas Branch, then the Executive Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. The attendance goal was 700 from a church membership of 900. A day of celebration followed a revival conducted by Rev. C. L. Capps, ordained earlier by the Garner Church. This milestone was a time for First Baptist Church to review its strong heritage,

give thanks to God for a wealth of blessing, and renew a covenant of service for the future.

As First Baptist Church entered its fourth quarter century, Charlie Jones again recognized a building committee, and Lacy Buffaloe introduced the architect. Charlie Jones' motion to accept plans for the sanctuary building was seconded by Marshal Long and J. R. McDaniel. Tom Baucum spoke to the need for all buildings to "be united as a single structure."

The architect, Mr. Victor Cole, explained the cost of approximately \$200,000. The motion carried with one opposing vote.

A year was dedicated to raising funds for completion of the building complex begun in 1954. Sunday School membership was close to 1,000 with an average attendance of 503. There were 242 people on the Training Union rolls.

A note of interest: In February, 1963, an offering was taken as a memorial to Dr. Douglas Branch. The Garner fellowship was saddened by the untimely death of Dr. Branch, a brother of the late Rae Furtado, of First Baptist Church.

Completing a building project of the magnitude undertaken by Garner was not a simple task. On January 26, 1964, the building committee presented a detailed report which said, in summary, that all bids were higher than the projected \$200,000. Even with major omissions to the sanctuary, the price for that building alone, would still be over \$170,000. The committee recommended all bids be rejected "as excessively high" and proposed "that the church proceed immediately with construction of the educational space now needed..." The committee recognized the potential deviousness of such a recommendation and asked for "your prayerful consideration..." The discussion and vote were set for the following Sunday, February 2, 1964.

After a presentation led by Richard Byrd, a vote by secret ballot was proposed. Discussion prompted a substitute motion made by Charlie Jones, asking that no vote be taken and that the committee return with another proposal within 90 days. The "motion carried by a standing vote, counted by Henry Wheeler, L. C. Maynard and William A. Langley."

This emotional issue was brought before the church again on February 16, 1964. The question emerged as "which unit of the building (was) to be constructed, educational or sanctuary." A secret ballot was cast with 235 voting for the sanctuary to be the next building and 65 favored the educational building.

The ambitious project got underway and the place of worship was built. Some reductions were made to keep cost in line with

proposals made during the sale of bonds. Many people would agree that the most critical omission was the steeple which was finally added in the late 1960's. Chimes were installed later, a gift from Madeline Glenn in memory of W. Sears Glenn. The W. G. Boykin memorial gift also enhanced this ministry.

In 1965, the second decade of W. C. Adkinson's ministry began amid growth and change. In June of the previous year, the Bedwell house was bought by the church. This property joined the church property on the south side.

In March of 1965, Victor Barfield, Chairman of the Deacons, read the resignation of Miss Isabell Knott, Minister of Education and Music. "The resignation was accepted with reluctance ...," according to church minutes, and "a letter of commendation (was) sent to the Tabernacle Baptist Church, New Bern...". A reception honoring Miss Knott was scheduled after evening services on April 26.

A committee composed of James Valsame, Jack Johnson, Mrs. William A. Langley, Vadin Hairr, and Mrs. Earl Green brought to the church the name of Melford Luther on April 11, 1965. Mr. Luther assumed the job of Minister of Education and Music.

As the church increased spiritually, it progressed in size as well. The new church year began in October 1965, and a letter of appreciation was written to Lacy Buffaloe "for services ... in connection with the building of the new Sanctuary ..." A new mimeograph machine was bought and a full time janitor was hired.

The church agreed to air condition the Education Building in 1966; Mrs. J. D. Mealer was employed as church secretary; and Mel Luther resigned his position. The Board of Deacons was made up of W. W. McClure, Purvis Jones, Earl Green, Victor Barfield, Sears Glenn, and Marshal Cobb.

Mr. Winfred Auten was called as Minister of Education and Music on April 2, 1967. Vaden Hairr moved to Longview and Carroll Calhoun assumed his role as a deacon. A church directory was approved, and on Christmas Eve, 1967, Bill Langley, Chairman of Building and Grounds, presented a plan to pave the church property, with "the area between the parsonage and the chapel ... paved first".

By July 1968, Rex Hayes gave the Sunday School attendance as 457. The Music Department enrolled 206 in six choirs. The Fall of 1968 brought a major change for Baptist Women steeped in tradition. Mrs. Catherine Jones reported that "all circles have been changed to group meetings". Tom Baucom told of 172 enrolled in Training Union and urged attendance at "M" Night at Memorial Auditorium. The Long Range Planning Committee came to the church with "a recommendation that our church in conjunction with the

Raleigh Baptist Association sponsor a mission in the new development, Heather Hills.."

A Music Committee was formed in 1969 with the following members: Art Alexander, Bill McClure, Mrs. Earl Green, and Mr. and Mrs. Winfred Auten. May 1969 showed the church a bit behind with the budget, and John Pegram challenged the members to make up the deficit "by each family giving \$1.00 per family per week for the next four Sundays."

The Nominating Committee for the 1969-70 church year was: Mrs. Carroll Calhoun, Mrs. C.G. Dawson, Mrs. Charlie Robinson, Mrs. Thomas Hinson, and Mr. Victor Barfield. The church accepted a gift of 4.6 acres of land in Orange County. A letter of thanks for the donation was sent to Mr. Lucas and Mr. Dean. Tom Baucom reported 90 in attendance at "M" Night.

In other business on October, 1969, Carolyn Boykin made a motion for the church to install a kitchen. Discussion was held and the matter was referred to Long Range Planning. At the following meeting, November 16, 1969, a plan was presented that the "small room in rear of chapel be converted to a combination kitchen/classroom", and that "the conversion be obtained by special contributions."

Sunday School attendance averaged 518 in 1970. The WMU was recognized with an Award of Distinction. Dr. James Valsame, Chairman of the Deacons, made a motion that April 26, 1970, be "D" Day, a dedication day to raise \$4,000 to be divided equally between the Cooperative Program and the debt retirement. The church voted to install in the parsonage a central system for heating and cooling.

The Church in conference, November 16, 1970, voted in favor of a plan presented by Bill Garrison, Chairman of the Deacons, "That a fund be established known as the steeple fund." A steeple, the ultimate symbol of God's love, was on the way to being a reality for the Garner Church.

Baptist Men's Day was observed at First Baptist on February 7, 1971. The guest speaker was Governor Bob Scott. Governor Scott, who was acquainted with the Adkinson's during their pastorate in Alamance County, spoke to a packed house.

During this same period, a dozen or so members transferred membership to a neighboring Baptist church. At the February 14, 1971, conference, Bill Garrison, Deacon Chairman, presented a letter as a recommendation from the Deacon Board for "Sponsorship by the First Baptist Church of Garner of a mission church in the Garner area." Attached to the request were signatures of 54 members of First Baptist Church. These individuals formed the nucleus of what is now Aversboro Road Baptist Church. The move

of a large block of active members and their families had a definite impact upon First Baptist.

Claiming the promise that "all things work together for good for those who love the Lord", both church bodies have grown and prospered as they serve God in the community.

Upon the occasion of the dedication of their church in 1971, Aversboro invited Rev. W. C. Adkinson to share in the activities. Aversboro pastor, Rev. Bob Coates, asked Mr. Adkinson to sit on the platform and say a few words. Mr. Adkinson says he looked out at the congregation, and, seeing many of his former members, said, "I feel that I'm more responsible for this building than any other person here today." The audience had a hearty laugh, and the ice was broken, beginning what has grown into a friendly and cooperative spirit between the two congregations.

As the 1971-72 church year progressed, the minutes show routine items of building maintenance, and a report from Priscilla Jones that the Garner WMU again had earned the Award of Distinction. First Baptist Church grew, facing new challenges. On April 18, 1971, "Tom Baucom, new chairman of the Board of Deacons, made a few excellent remarks with reference to the future and goals of our church." Through the years, in the church at Garner, there have been those calm and steady voices along the way. The record shows Tom Baucom has frequently been that voice, speaking and working quietly. In his letter to the church at Philippi, the Apostle Paul wrote, "this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind ..., I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13a-14 (KJV) And thus has grown the Lord's church in this place.

Sunday School Director, John Marsh, reported excellent attendance for the January 1972, Bible Study. Miriam Sorrell gave a report that the Lottie Moon offering was \$1,387. The Deacon's Chairman, Wendell Haire, announced April 9, 1972, was Loyalty Day to raise \$4,000 for "improvement of the building and ground facilities." Additional parking was added.

Mary Marsh was church hostess and Barbara Barbee was hired as Music Director. In a business meeting in May, 1972, James Malcolm Benfield became Minister of Education and Youth. Later that year, Joe Boone presented these nominees for leadership: Sunday School, John Marsh; Training Union, Ted Turnley; WMU, Miriam Sorrell; and Brotherhood, Rev. N. A. Catlett.

The church voted to buy a bus, and these members were asked to be on the Bus Committee: Purvis Jones, Reuben Carter, Wayne Bare, Tommy Stewart, Karl Barbee, Mrs. Malon Dickens, and Mrs. T. C. Baucom.

In January, 1973, Barbara Barbee resigned as Music Director. Roscoe Norton was Sunday School Director, and Ted Turnley remained in charge of Training Union. Early that year, an extensive program of paving began with Purvis Jones as chairman. Rose Slonaker became Music Director, and by April, 55% of the \$10,000 goal for paving had been raised.

In view of the upcoming retirement of W. C. Adkinson, these members were appointed as the replacement committee: Carroll Calhoun, Chairman; Janet Boone; Catherine Baucom; Marshall Cobb; Anna Belle Creech; Claude Duncan; and Wayne Bare.

Deacons for 1973 were: Max Barbour, Joe Boone, Carroll Calhoun, David Collie, Wendell Haire, Roscoe Norton, Thomas Yeargan, and Marshall Cobb. The value of church property had risen to \$714,400, making additional insurance a necessity. Mary Elizabeth Bradley was replaced by Nancy Stout as organist.

The year 1974 began as a memorable one for pastor and people. On Sunday morning, January 20, as Mr. Adkinson presided at his final conference as FBC pastor, "Mrs. Adkinson was escorted to the pulpit and Marshall Cobb presented a toy automobile" to the couple. The toy represented a 1974 Pinto station wagon presented to them by the church.

More surprises were in store for the retirees before the day's end. The Adkinsons were taken out to lunch and returned to church for a "Gospel Sing" at 5:00 p.m.. The singing took place, but not for long. Associate Pastor, Jim Benfield, had the Adkinsons brought to the platform telling them they were next on the program. Instead, what began was a delightful 90 minute "This Is Your Life" program.

There was much laughter and some tears as the Adkinsons made a nostalgic trip back to their college days in the late '20's and down through the years of their ministry. Tributes were paid to the Adkinsons by former Governor and Mrs. Bob Scott and other guests from the Alamance town of Slepsonville. A large delegation was present from the 16th Street Church in Greensboro, their place of service prior to Garner. Many tributes were paid to the Adkinsons, the most touching of which was the unexpected arrival of their son, Dwayne and his family from Michigan. Mr. Adkinson wrote later, "The greatest surprise was where our own son from Detroit ... came ... This broke me down in tears."

The January 30, 1974, Newsletter carried the words of Mr. Adkinson in "From the Pastor's Pen":

... The long years of being with you have created lasting ties of friendship ... Your love for me has been exemplified by your loyalty ... It

has been difficult to please everyone, and any failing on my part was not of the heart.

The retirement prompted others to speak or write of what W. C. Adkinson had meant to them. The February 10, 1974, edition of Charity and Children carried these words from editor, Charles Hodges:

It isn't particularly unusual to see a pastor retire, but this one was unusual - it was my pastor ... His counsel was always available to his "preacher boy" when needed.

The praise of another brother in the ministry came from Rev. Charles Bryant, then pastor of Garner Methodist Church. He wrote in "Steeple People" in the February 13, 1974, Garner News

I envy a man who has such an internal constitution that would cause him to survive nineteen and a half years as the pastor of one church ... Such ... causes me to think of First Corinthians thirteen, "love is patient and kind ... never gives up ... is eternal ... God bless you both, Mr. Adkinson and First Baptist Church. You've passed the greatest test of love ... time.

1974 - 1981 - STEADFAST LOVE/CHARLES L. TANNER

On February 17, 1974, Replacement Committee Chairman, Carroll Calhoun, presented to the church the name of Charles L. Tanner. The vote was taken and Mr. Tanner was duly called as pastor of First Baptist Church. The first business meeting showing Mr. Tanner as Moderator was April 21, 1974, at which time Jim Benfield's title was changed to Associate Pastor.

Tragedy struck just after midnight on April 18, 1974, when the white frame building which first housed Garner's church, was lost to fire. The headline in the Thursday evening Raleigh Times read "Fire Destroys Town Hall in Garner." According to news articles in both the Times and News and Observer, fire went rapidly through the two-story building used by the town since the late 1960's. Town Board member Kay Daughtry remembered services held jointly with the Methodist Church, especially Easter and Christmas concerts and Vacation Bible School. Town employee Eunice Jackson remembered being baptized in the church and Alex Umstead told of meeting there as a member of Troop 90, Garner's first Boy Scout troop.

Garner News on April 24, 1974, devoted a large space to the coverage of the fire at Town Hall. As previously mentioned, in 1956, the Baptists had sold to the Presbyterians. In turn, the building became Town Hall in a sale from the Presbyterians for \$5,500. Rev. W. C. Adkinson, retired three months as pastor at First Baptist, shared memories of the old church building which had come to such a sad ending.

In First Baptist life during 1973-74, General Officers were: Ted Rollins, Sunday School Director, Carl Sikes, Training Union Director; Lillian Deckard, WMU Director; and N. A. Catlett, Baptist Men. Rev. Tanner successfully started a class for the mentally handicapped. The work began after a \$2,000 donation by Eliza Robinson in memory of her husband, Charlie. In addition, during Mr. Tanner's pastorate, a live nativity scene was enacted each Christmas bringing inspiration to hundreds who watched and participated.

Tom Poole came as Minister of Music in July, and Janice Hocutt was hired as organist. Long Range Planning was begun by Purvis Jones, Chairman; Neil Crenshaw; Ellen Furlough; E. R. Perry; and Michael Pollard. Charles Wagner came on the committee in September after the death of Mr. Perry.

Marshall Hall chaired a committee "to look into the purchase of an organ for the church ..." He and Ellen Furlough, Julia Ross, and Purvis Jones, made a presentation to the church in special conference, November 10, 1974. The purchase of an Allen organ from E. R. Poole Music Company would cost \$14,992. Mr. Weston wanted to purchase the current organ for \$500. Another committee chaired by A. J. Saunders included Marshall Hall, Ellen Furlough, Julia Ross, and Tom Yeargan soon reported contributions were sufficient to make the down-payment. The church voted to finance the balance through a loan from First Citizens Bank.

In 1975, it was agreed that church business meetings be held at the evening services. In October, Kathy Blackwood became Music Director. Homecoming was set for October, 19, 1975. The following positions were filled: Sunday School Director, Dr. Ted Rollins; WMU Director, Mrs. Chris May. The Budget/Finance Chairman was Thomas Yeargin with members, John Marsh, Mrs. Lillian Deckard, Carroll Calhoun, R. W. Carter, Mrs. Vic Barfield, Randy King, and Treasurer and Budget Secretary, Herbert Allen.

Family Night supper was instituted with the church employing a person to prepare the meal at a salary of \$25 per week.

Buying a bus was still a subject of strong interest in 1975, and a large committee was named "to seek ways to promote the project of securing a bus for the church": Tom Stewart, Chairman;

Karl Barbee, Murphy May, Robert Crenshaw, Neil Crenshaw, Wilbur Sanders, Mrs. Maxie King, Mrs. Pat Joye, Mrs. Margie Hall, Derrick Smith, and Arnie Ogburn.

The Nominating Committee for 1975 was: Mrs. A. S. Furtado, Miss Carolyn Boykin, Mrs. Paul Maultsby, Mr. A. J. Saunders, Mr. Wade Burnette, and Wayne Bare, Chairman.

Tom Creech, of the Building and Grounds Committee, made a motion that a 15 ton air conditioner be bought for the Fellowship Hall. Purvis Jones moved for the church to sell 4.6 acres of land in Orange County to James Underwood for \$4,500. According to proper order, these motions carried.

Mrs. Jennie Humphreys contributed money to erect a sign to identify the church on St. Mary's Street between the chapel and sanctuary. The following committee was named for the purpose of replacing Tom Poole and Janice Hocutt in the Music Department; Chairman, Marshall Hall, Mrs. Willie Dawson, Mrs. Lee Hopper, Mrs. Faye Crenshaw, Henry Austin, Jim Carpenter and Cindy Carter.

In 1976, Wanda Brown was hired as organist. About the same time, Sue Starnes became church secretary. The Long Range Planning Committee proposed building a new education building for \$200,000 with the prospect of being out of debt in two years. In addition the church agreed to purchase a sound system to begin a Tape Ministry for shut-ins. This equipment was presented by Catherine Jones and family in memory of C. Purvis Jones.

The issue of buying a bus was still debated. The first proposal to buy two mini-buses did not materialize, and in July 1976, the congregation voted to buy a "large, used bus plus insurance and repairs." The motion was seconded and carried with four dissenting votes. From the Deacons came this statement showing gratitude to the Bus Committee: "Their task has been difficult and often lacking necessary support from the church".

A unanimous vote of approval was given in 1977 for Thomas Wesley Stewart to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Later, he was licensed to preach the Gospel.

Magnus Radford brought from the Deacons a plan to improve the exterior of the chapel building. A plan was approved to cushion the church pews, and hand bells were purchased for the music program. On Sunday, December 25, 1977, Sunday School convened at 9:00 a.m. with worship at 10:00 a.m.

Some events in the life of the church at this time were: A plan to exchange evening worship services with Wake Baptist Grove Church was suggested; Someone offered to move the Scout Hut from the property at no expense to the church; Because the paint on the sanctuary ceiling was unsightly, a plan to repair it was

approved; and water damaged the Education Building costing \$1,500 in repairs.

Church softball teams are always enjoyed by a large number in Garner. At that period, several people participated in a league at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church. Discussion was focused on budget allocations for softball, and funds were set aside for this purpose.

Making the position of Music Director full time was discussed. Lynn Deaton was church organist.

The results of extensive Long Range Planning were presented by Wayne Bare in September 1979. Detailed studies had been made concerning spiritual and physical needs and goals for the church. The report showed ways that goals could be met. It was determined that all buildings except the sanctuary were inadequate.

Refinishing the sanctuary ceiling began in January 1980, and worship was held in the chapel for a short time. There was interest in a sound system for the youth choir, and the church approved raising "funds through donations".

On April 13, 1980, Neal Padgett was elected church organist. A job description for the position was approved.

During this year, First Baptist Church, Garner, experienced unusual difficulties. The membership was challenged to search carefully for God's will. The grace of God was with His church, and people were drawn closer to the Lord and to each other.

Work proceeded in Sunday School and worship as an extended session for 4 and 5 year olds was started and staffed by Annette Edwards and Coneta Eason. Children's Church began with Woody Mitchell and Ray Dunlap in charge. A men's Sunday School Class committed to build a picnic shelter on church property to the rear of the sanctuary. Emma Kay Byrd assisted as Interim Music Director.

A motion was made to change the title of Assistant Pastor to Director of Education and Youth. Since a constitution change was involved, the matter was voted on at a later date and passed by a majority. The procedures were studied for selecting a Minister of Education and Youth and Minister of Music.

A pastor selection committee was nominated in November 1980. Jean Maultsby was chairman and members were: Linda Kiger, Elwood Evans, Elwood King, and Carl Goode. The selection carried by standing vote.

Early in 1981, a committee consisting of Wayne Wall,

Chairman, Gertrude Taylor, Anita Bare, and Tommy Stewart was named to find an interim pastor. In the meantime, Mr. Adkinson visited on behalf of the church and was paid \$50 per week. Neal Padgett's salary was increased by \$20 per week because of added responsibilities with the youth.

The question of women deacons was explored, and a vote of 78 for and 76 against failed for the lack of three-fourths majority. Work on the kitchen progressed and funds were earmarked for that need.

On the first of March, 1981, Rev. D. P. McFarland was named as Interim Pastor. In his open, positive way, Mr. McFarland embraced the church and healing took place. This dear servant has remained close to First Baptist Church and has visited on special occasions.

1981 - PRESENT - A WALK BY FAITH/GATTIS W. PERRY

Dr. Gattis Perry, pastor of Oakhurst Church in Charlotte, was presented to the church family at the end of May, 1981. Dr. Perry and his wife, Carl Joy, visited the church on June 13 in a series of activities designed to allow the church to become acquainted with the minister and his family. On the following day, the 11:00 worship service was conducted by Dr. Perry. Afterward, Jean Maultsby, Chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee, made the presentation to the church and moved that Dr. Gattis Perry be called as pastor of First Baptist Church. The motion carried and Dr. Perry accepted the call. He and his family moved into the parsonage. A reception for the Perrys was scheduled in August. The first business meeting naming him as moderator was August 30, 1981.

Other business in 1981 shows a letter of resignation from Emma Byrd as Interim Music Director. Monthly church conferences were changed to the third Wednesday night with changes in Personnel and the Constitution to be presented on Sunday morning. As a change in the Constitution, this item was voted on and carried at a later date. The year 1981 culminated in December with the call of Russell Potter as Minister of Education and Youth.

The growth taking place in First Baptist prompted plans for additional space. An on-going building fund was established with total commitment of those funds for a new building. Wayne Wall was active as chairman of the deacons during this endeavor.

The church newsletter was named the Vision in March 1982, and the Garner Area Ministries was given permission to use the FBC sanctuary for gospel "sings". Discussion was held on the addition of cushions for the pews in the balcony.

On May 9, Sharyn Oakley was called as Minister of Music. Later, in August, the search began for a Director of Education and Youth. Doug Little, Ray Dunlap, Jan Turner, Faye Crenshaw, and Tom Currin served on the committee.

Children's Church was discontinued and a short children's sermon in the regular worship service was proposed. A bus ministry began on a trial basis in 1982 with Woody Mitchell in charge. Sharyn Oakley gave a concert on July 4, and the church called Pam Allsbrook as secretary in August.

Mrs. Eliza Robinson designated money given in memory of her husband, Charlie, be used to buy a line printer for the church office.

The church was called in special conference on November 21, 1982. Plans for a new building were presented. Construction of an education building would complete the fourth unit of the building complex begun in 1955.

Under the leadership of Dr. Perry, plans for the new building were paramount in the life of the church during 1983. Flythe Construction was awarded the bid, and funds for the project were raised through a program called "Together We Build". This special emphasis was led by Rev. Ray Cumbee, and gifts and pledges were generous. Woody Mitchell was chairman, and Elwood Evans, Becky Harrison and Ray Dunlap were spiritual emphasis leaders. The Christmas season was joyous as the church reached high goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and "Together We Build".

Sharyn Oakley resigned in June 1983, and a committee composed of Jane Rogers, Camelia Seagroves, David Barnes, Wanda Johnson and Carroll Matthews was named to search for a replacement.

During the time of transition as the building program came to fruition, the church library was moved to the old choir room behind the sanctuary. The services of the library expanded under the capable leadership of Madeline Glenn, Sue Woodard and committee. Some new furnishings were given in memory of Carroll Calhoun by his wife, Bonnie, and her family.

During the year, the church participated in a softball fellowship with Mt. Herman Christian Church. There was no traditional Bible School in the summer; it was replaced with backyard Bible Studies.

The church homecoming was set for the last Sunday in September. Beth Hunnicutt was called as Minister of Music on December 18, 1983. The parsonage became the residence for the

Hunnicut family. The church celebrated Christmas Day during the eleven o'clock hour, and Sunday evening services were cancelled.

The building program included some changes in existing buildings. A baptistry was added in the sanctuary necessitating replacing the carpet. A special donation of money to the church was used for that purpose. The room used as the pastor's study behind the sanctuary became a prayer room. The search for an organist began in March, 1984, through committee members, Doug Little, Mary King, Doug Massey, and Marilyn Duncan. Soon, thereafter, Beverly Smith was employed for this position. Also, in March, Pam Allsbrook resigned as church secretary, and this position was filled by Ruby Evans in May.

A new Minister of Education and Youth was sought after the resignation of Russell Potter and these people served as Search Committee: Elwood Evans, Chairman, Derieux Edwards, June Williams, Julie Jones, and Don Johnson.

The building dedication was scheduled in conjunction with Homecoming, 1985.

Beth Hunnicutt led in formation of a Senior Adult Fellowship. This active group bears the appropriate name of the "Ready Club".

Harald Aadahl was named Director of Education and Youth effective June 27, 1984. Mr. Aadahl was ordained for the gospel ministry later on January 6, 1985.

Garner hosted a joint community service on Thanksgiving Day. The program was broadcast on WRAL-TV with Dr. Jimmy Morris.

A Dodge van equipped with a cargo rack was bought in 1985. Policies for use of the van were drawn up, and Don Johnson was appointed as coordinator.

Beth Hunnicutt was called as full-time Minister of Music in March, 1985. The job description for the Minister of Education was updated as well as some personnel policies for other staff.

New hymnals bound in white with gold trim were purchased for the sanctuary. Church members were given the privilege of buying the hymnals for \$7.68 each in memory or in honor of a person of their choosing. This information was attractively placed in the books.

The church had the opportunity to help bear expenses of Todd Boyette's volunteer mission trip to Argentina. Todd completed the assignment and shared his experiences with the members when he returned.

As 1985 drew to a close, a recommendation came from the deacons for disposal of the church bus. The youth group and their leaders who experienced the misfortune of using the bus in recent months were dedicated to this project. A December 18, 1985, entry in the church minutes reads: "The church bus was sold for \$600 (Praise the Lord)."

Additions and repairs were made to the physical plant in 1986. The kitchen was updated, helping to insure the success of a thriving Wednesday night supper. A modern copy machine was installed in the church office. The appearance of the campus improved as members of the church contributed both time and talent.

A new ministry, Mother's Morning Out, had its beginning in August 1986, with Wanda Johnson the director. In this program, mothers may leave their pre-schoolers and be assured they are in a caring, loving atmosphere.

During this period, Philip Dail became a salaried member of the church staff in the role of pianist. He served in that position until October, 1987. Other leaders for 1986-87 included H. C. Daniels as Sunday School director, and Becky Harrison as WMU director.

The second phase of the TWB program started early in 1987, the name being Challenge To Grow (CTG). An outgrowth of this program included acquiring the house next to the new education building. This dwelling was sold and the lot cleared for the purpose of church expansion.

In February of 1987, Harald Aadahl's resignation left vacant the position of Minister of Education and Youth. A search committee was named with Stanley Dixon, chairman. Camelia Seagroves, Margie Hall, Alfred Elmore, and Bob Cholerton were committee members.

Rev. David Smith was named Interim Associate Minister. Rev. Smith, a student at Southeastern Seminary, remained in the position as a part-time staff member during the fall of 1987.

Sunday School enrollment was reported as 696 in June of 1987. H. C. Daniels continued to work as Sunday School director with Janet Austin the WMU director. Ralph Strother directed Church Training, and Wayne Wall worked with Baptist Men.

THE CELEBRATION

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. For we are laborers together with God: Ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. For other

foundation can no man lay than is laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3: 6,9,11. {KJV}

The year 1987 marked the 100th anniversary of First Baptist Church. Catherine Jones chaired a committee to lead centennial activities. Committee members were Miriam Sorrell, Lillian Deckard, Carl Joy Perry, Carroll Matthews, and Wayne Wall. A celebration began in praise and honor of the time a century ago when the Lord's work began in this place.

During the year, attention was focused on people and events too great to number. These individuals not previously mentioned, have ably served as church secretary: Betsy Dowd, Shirley Radford, Jo Ann Crenshaw, Ellen Furlough and Cindy Furlough. No doubt, many who made contributions have been unknowingly omitted. To these individuals, and all who touched the church through the years, a large debt of gratitude is owed.

The record shows that Calvin Capps, Charles Hodges, Wayne Dunn and Wesley Stewart have gone out from the congregation to work in church vocations. Pastors and other staff members, many in the early days of their ministry, have both given and received nurture here.

A homecoming/centennial celebration was held on Sunday, September 27, 1987. Around 700 people, many of them former members, were in attendance. The speaker for the eleven o'clock hour was Dr. R. Paul Caudill who served the church almost sixty years earlier in 1920-1930. Other former pastors shared the weekend of rejoicing: Ryburn Stancil (1940-1944), W. C. Adkinson (1954-1974), and Charles L. Tanner (1974-1981).

The celebration was the peak of exciting activities begun months earlier. Biographical sketches of former members were distributed. A newsletter with an attractive centennial logo was circulated. During the morning worship hour, September 13, 1987, there was an old fashioned day, complete with long dresses, beards, and pump organ.

On Sunday night, September 20, a lively old-time singspiration took place. W. C. Adkinson gave "memories of FBC." On Wednesday night, September 23.

Saturday night, September 26 was devoted to a video presentation to "Remember ... Reflect ... Rejoice." On display were copies of the original deed from 1887 along with numerous pictures and articles from the century past.

September 27, 1987, dawned fair and warm, a perfect dinner-on-the-grounds day. After old-time music and preaching, friends and families enjoyed a bountiful meal.

In the afternoon, folks gathered for a last bit of nostalgia as former staff members were invited to the platform to say a few words. An overview of this historical account was read. Afterward, those present, led by Rev. David Smith, participated in the burial of a time capsule to be opened in fifty years in 2037. Placed in the capsule were items reminiscent of one hundred years of life in this place.

Continuing in such faith as was demonstrated by Bro. J. J. Bagwell, Miss Lula, and others in 1887, First Baptist Church in conference on November 1, 1987, extended a call to Gray Little as Minister of Youth and Education. Mr. Little, with his wife Paula, accepted the call with intent to come to the Garner post by November 22, 1987.

And so, looking back on a century of the life and work of First Baptist Church, Garner, echoes are heard strong and clear even as in the words of the writer of Hebrews:

Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed
about with so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us lay aside every weight, and the
sin which doth so easily beset us and
let us run with patience the race that
is set before us, looking unto Jesus
the author and finisher of our faith ...

Hebrews 12: 1-2a {KJV}

And so begins the next 100 years.

AMEN



Church Clerks for First Baptist Church from 1949 - 1987

J. S. Pittard

J. H. Snipes

S. F. Humphreys

J. D. Mealer

Tom Baucom

Carolyn Barfield

Acting Clerks

Charlie Herbert

Rufus E. Howell

W. A. Langley

Felton Hinton

Ralph Creech

Randy King

Etta Mae Pollard

Gil Holland

Jan Turner

Miriam Sorrell

Church Staff

Dr. W. Gattis Perry Pastor

Beth Hunnicutt Minister of Music

David Smith Interim Associate

Ruby T. Evans Secretary

Priscilla Webb Financial Secretary

Beverly Smith Organist

Philip Dail Pianist

Church Officers

Sunday School

Director H.C. Daniels

Woman's Missionary

Union Director Janet Austin

Church Training

Director Ralph Strother

Brotherhood Director ... Marshall Hall

Church Treasurer Carroll Matthews

Deacons

Neil Crenshaw

Garry Austin

Elwood Evans

H.C. Daniels

Don Johnson

Ray Dunlap

Doug Massey

Wendell Haire

Billy Mitchell

Jim Hunnicutt

Magnus Radford

Woodrow Mitchell

Wayne Wall

Bobby Woodard,
Chairman

Centennial Celebration Planning Committee

Catherine Jones,
Chairman

Carl Joy Perry

Lillian Deckard

Miriam Sorrell

Carroll Matthews

Wayne Wall

Trustees: Charlie Jones, Wendell Haire,
Doug Little



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Finanical Tables
by
Madeline Glenn

Graph
by
Walton Turner



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

601 St. Mary's St.
Garner, N. C.

1887 - 1987

YEAR	BAPTISMS	S.S. ENR.	TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL STAFF SALARIES	MISSION OFFERINGS ALL CAUSES	BUILDINGS, REPAIRS, ETC.	OTHER	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL VALUE CHURCH PROPERTY	TOTAL CHURCH DEBT	DEBT RETIREMENT	COMMENTS
1887			23		\$2.75			\$2.75				
1888	3	67	39	\$75.00	5.48	\$455.52	\$16.57	552.57				
1889	4	59	47	75.00	11.68	180.00	35.57	302.05				
1890	4	58	51		9.32	175.00	31.30	221.62				
1891	4	56	56	75.00	7.15	25.00	97.83	204.98				
1892	4	58	58	75.00	14.35	55.00	18.10	162.23				
1893	5	58	58	75.00	21.97		24.90	151.56				
1894	6	53	56	75.00	22.60		54.68	151.56				
1895	3	78	76	85.00	32.67		59.40	172.07				
1896	9	92	92	85.00	30.55	25.00	60.57	201.12				
1897	84	63	84	85.00	31.48		37.42	153.90				
1898		60	76	100.00	16.26	2.00	28.00	146.26				
1899				100.00	13.25		13.40	126.65				
1900	3	70	76	100.00	19.09	115.00	37.00	271.09				
1901		51	74		12.65		30.50	43.15				
1902	1	58	69	100.00	11.88	5.00	25.50	142.38				
1903	3	35	72	75.00	10.00	30.00	16.00	131.00				
1904	4	64	100.00	20.59	20.59		33.50	154.09				
1905	7	60	63	100.00	48.50	10.00	41.50	200.00	\$1,500.00			
1906		36	54	100.00	20.20	20.00	10.75	150.95				
1907	2	55	58	100.00	58.00	35.00	40.00	233.00				
1908	5	60	66	125.00	65.76	33.00	121.00	344.76				
1909	57	56	56	125.00	28.10	25.00	46.10	224.20				
1910	55	58	58	125.00	32.50	285.00	32.50	435.00	2,000.00			
1911		66	56	125.00	45.35	25.00	25.00	220.35				
1912	4	51	56	125.00	38.73	450.00	42.99	206.72	2,500.00			
1913	8	57	57	125.00	131.50		129.50	768.00				
1914	58	52	62	200.00	136.66	22.00	224.84	586.50				
1915	1	83	66	200.00	136.66	22.00	234.00	586.50	3,000.00			
1916		90	66	150.00	115.22	25.00	104.40	391.62				
1917	9	77	68	180.00	89.14	25.00	107.53	401.67				
1918	77	65	65	200.00	86.25	121.17	114.45	521.87	3,500.00			
1919	77	65	77	200.00	241.15	121.17	114.45	676.77				
1920	2	68	66	200.00	59.80	100.00	317.00	576.80				
1921	1	78	66	200.00	21.50	100.00	266.80	688.30	4,000.00	\$300.00		75 Million Campaign - \$173.50
1922	1	87	59	200.00	76.50		514.50	791.00		300.00		576.70
1923		83	59	150.00	164.65		50.00	364.65				120.65
1924	10	90	74	200.00	101.55		50.00	351.55				63.25
1925		83	110	250.00	211.10		153.90	615.00	5,000.00			

601 St. Mary's St.
Garner, N. C.

1887 - 1987

[illegible]

YEAR	BAPTISMS	S. S., ENR.	TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL STAFF SALARIES	MISSION OFFERINGS ALL CAUSES	OTHER	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL VALUE CHURCH PROPERTY	TOTAL CHURCH DEBT	DEBT RETIREMENT	COMMENTS
1965	31	1173	934	\$14,336.00	\$9,000.00	\$38,708.00	\$62,044.00	\$400,000.00	\$220,000.00	\$20,546.00	BOND PROGRAM
1966	22	1187	977	16,033.00	10,621.00	43,756.00	70,410.00		215,000.00	23,106.00	
1967	54	1125	1056	15,831.00	8,317.00	43,785.00	67,933.00		210,000.00	25,151.00	
1968	52	1118	1049	18,768.00	7,797.00	48,865.00	75,430.00	422,000.00	190,000.00	26,970.00	
1969	42	1136	1094	19,106.00	9,559.00	53,078.00	81,743.00		174,000.00	30,492.00	
1970	26	1132	1067	20,443.00	11,127.00	47,627.00	79,497.00		160,000.00	26,800.00	
1971	33	796	937	20,368.00	7,881.00	49,276.00	77,525.00	430,000.00	158,884.00	26,469.00	
1972	52	792	1021	19,731.00	10,645.00	47,776.00	78,152.00		108,000.00	27,000.00	
1973	41	771	1035	32,500.00	11,402.00	61,427.00	105,329.00		103,000.00	26,748.00	
1974	19	797	1062	38,583.00	12,065.00	67,946.00	118,594.00		77,000.00	26,440.00	
1975	13	620	1075	46,869.00	17,901.00	75,559.00	140,379.00	808,000.00	58,500.00	34,844.00	
1976	30	726	1041	48,257.00	18,560.00	65,386.00	132,193.00			23,400.00	
1977	21	643	1062	48,870.00	18,798.00	63,980.00	131,646.00	984,388.00	10,000.00	23,400.00	
1978	17	658	1079	48,239.00	20,309.00	77,223.00	145,771.00	1,000,000.00		7,257.00	
1979	21	680	1103	62,397.00	25,481.00	98,157.00	155,803.00				
1980	4	52	1093	53,533.00	32,720.00	74,252.00	152,326.00	1,003,000.00			
1981	5	577	1103	53,533.00	32,720.00	74,252.00	152,326.00				
1982	13	596	1121	51,665.00	37,792.00	107,949.00	191,905.00				
1983	34	658	1183	86,739.00	37,122.00	103,240.00	227,101.00				
1984	24	688	1196	57,655.00	40,145.00	232,750.00	330,590.00		350,000.00	Interest: 17,388.00	TWB PROGRAM
									Borrowed: 357,500.00		
1985	19	659	1241	92,339.00	45,085.00	210,000.00	347,424.00	2,355,172.00	321,667.00	Interest: 41,248.00	
									Borrowed: 15,000.00	Principal: 50,833.00	
1986	10	691	1263	90,445.00	51,506.00	246,437.00	388,386.00	2,398,172.00	313,866.00	Interest: 30,494.00	
									Borrowed: 43,000.00	Principal: 67,422.00	CTG PROGRAM

1987

Report 8-2-87
 \$532,971 - Educ. Bldg. & House
 269,777 - Amount Paid
 \$263,194 - Balance Due
 1,670 - Cash in Bank
 106,926 - Interest Paid
 Doug Little, CTO Treas.

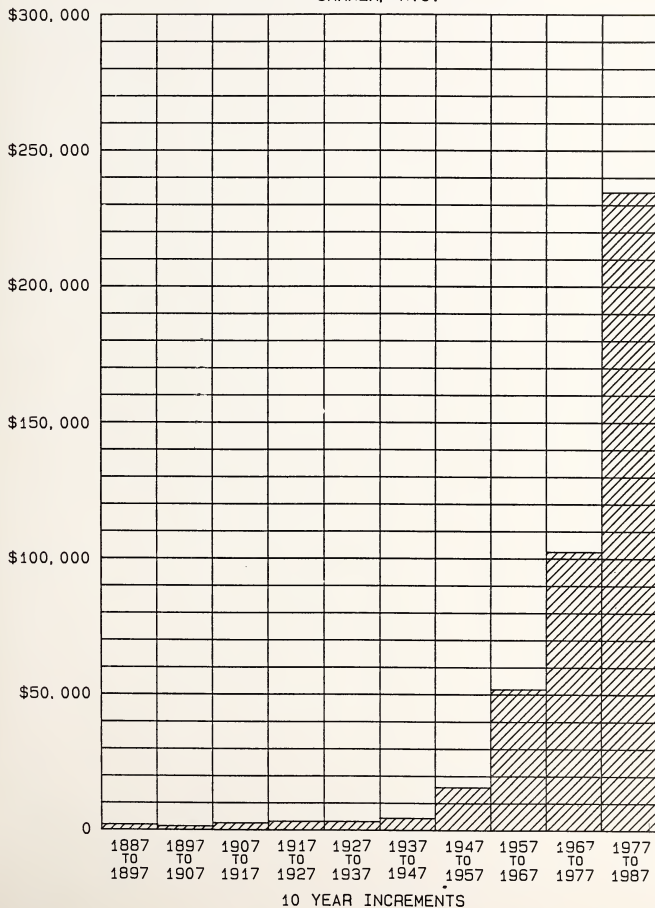
Information for the charts were obtained from the annual Raleigh Baptist Association Minutes.



TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS

SHOWN AS AN AVERAGE OF EACH 10 YEAR PERIOD

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GARNER
GARNER, N.C.









FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GARNER
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION